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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, **BC** 20515—0533

March 13, 2017

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The Honorable Devin Nunes
Chairman
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
Capitol Visitor Center HVC-304
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nunes,

We write regarding your recent comments about the acquisition of communications between former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn and Russian officials. As members of the Judiciary Committee, we share your concerns about recording the phone calls of Americans and believe these issues must be resolved as Congress looks to reauthorize the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) Amendments Act.

Leading up to and following General Flynn's resignation as National Security Adviser, several reports surfaced related to his communications with Russian officials. Subsequently, *The Hill* and *The Washington Post* reported that you raised concerns about recording the calls of an American citizen. Specifically, the *Post* quoted you as saying, "The big problem I see here is that you have an American citizen who had his phone calls recorded."

While it is unclear what exact authority was used to acquire General Flynn's communications, we agree that warrantless seizures and searches of Americans are unconstitutional. Since its inception, FISA's Section 702 has too often been used as a vehicle to engage in activities violating the Fourth Amendment rights of Americans. As you are well aware, Section 702 authority will expire at the end of the current year. We strongly believe that it should not be reauthorized without significant reforms to protect the constitutional rights of American citizens. The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Judiciary Committee will soon begin deliberations on this important reauthorization. We urge you to join us in reforming the law to ensure that the activities of our intelligence agencies do not violate our constitutional rights.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Ted W. Lieu

Member of Congress

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John Conyers, Jr.

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